

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 22 | Humidity 71%

Mainly Clear sky

Sensex 76,348

Nifty 23,190

Gold 90,660

Silver 1,05,100

Dollar 86.37

Euro 93.88

GBP 112.12

CITY / PAGE 3

DROP THAT

Police struggle to track peddlers as they use 'drop location' method to evade law, to deliver drugs anonymously via encrypted chats



CITY / PAGE 5

GONE FOREVER?

City most affected by cyber fraud in Karnataka, but recovery minimal as it lost ₹19,872.67 crore while only ₹1,902.60 crore was retrieved



With AI-driven solutions making entry-level tech jobs redundant, IT firms are opting for mass lay-offs, as a result of which PG accommodations are losing sheen that they once had

HOUSE OF CARDS

Water, power bills going up so expenses have risen for PG owners

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Once a thriving sector catering to the city's influx of IT professionals, Bengaluru's paying guest (PG) accommodations are now witnessing a sharp decline in occupancy rates. The ongoing wave of layoffs in the IT industry, fueled by advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and a global economic slowdown, has led to a 30% drop in PG occupancy, leaving landlords and operators in distress.

For over a decade, Bengaluru has drawn tech professionals from across the country, many of whom have relied on PG accommodations in IT hotspots like Marathahalli, Whitefield, and Electronic City. However, the recent job cuts have forced thousands to vacate their rented spaces and return to their hometowns, triggering a cascading effect on the city's rental market.

Shrinking demand, rising costs

The crisis has hit PG operators hard, with many struggling to cope with dwindling revenues and mounting operational costs. Arun Kumar, presi-



dent of the PG Owners' Association, highlights the challenges. "With work-from-home policies becoming more common, employees are opting for short-term stays instead of monthly rentals. In PGs housing 100 to 200 residents, about 50 to 60 are IT employees. When companies allow hybrid



Maintaining hygiene, quality food, and services is essential, but with rising costs and lower rents, PG owners are incurring heavy losses

—Arun Kumar,
president of the PG Owners' Association

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LAKES UNDER SIEGE



Directions to clear encroachments aside, BBMP also needs to monitor progress, say activists

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Environmentalists and lake activists have welcomed Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner's directive to the authorities to clear encroachments on lakes. But alongside giving directions, they want the BBMP Chief Commissioner to also monitor the progress of encroachment clearing.

Lakes in the city have become most vulnerable to all types of encroachment due to a lack of coordination between the BBMP Lakes Department and the Revenue Department. For example, there was a considerable delay in surveying Horamavu-Jayanthi Nagar Lake due to a lack of coordination. Residents of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Immersive art

The eighth edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) will be taking place with the theme "Future is Now". This year's edition, supported by the Yuj Foundation, promises to be an immersive celebration of art, featuring over 100 installations, exclusive exhibitions, and global collaborations. **Where:** VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; **When:** March 27 to April 28



02 Solo act

Raga Shankara is organising 'Notion(s): In Between You And Me', a devised solo performance that draws on one woman's name, rage and journey of mowing through religion, region, caste, gender and race. **Where:** Raga Shankara, JP Nagar; **When:** March 21, 7.30 pm



03 Stride on

CMR University is set to host the 'Aarohann' marathon. The student-led initiative will feature 5K, 8K, and 10K runs, welcoming both students and the general public to participate. Padma Shri Dr KS Rajanna and renowned actor Sri Dhruva Sarja will be the chief guests for the run. **Where:** CMR University, Lakeside Campus Bagalur; **When:** March 23, 6 am



04 Exploring culture

The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) is presenting 'Lavanyavati', which entails the story of Lavani through the years, as part of the second edition of Women's History Month, a month-long festival throughout March 2025, dedicated to celebrating the invaluable contributions of women to the diverse landscape of Indian music. **Where:** Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar; **When:** March 22, 7 pm

05 Artful devotion

Samanvay Arts Festival, presented by Sri Raja Rajeshwari KalaNiketan and the Academy of Music, is paying homage to the saint-poet Meera Bai, with an artistic presentation titled "Bhakti Shakti—The Power of Devotion." **Where:** Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; **When:** March 21, 5.45 pm

Bandh: All you need to know, what's open and what's not

Many organisations have expressed support for tomorrow's bandh, so brace for potential disruption of services; some have only extended moral support and no active participation

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Several Kannada organisations have called for a Karnataka Bandh on March 22 to protest against the recent attack on Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus staff by Marathi activists in Belagavi. The Karnataka School Examination and Evaluation Board has assured that the bandh will not affect pre-university (PU) evaluation processes or examiners. HN Gopalakrishna, Director of the Board, confirmed that Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams are not scheduled for March 22, ensuring no disruptions to students. Additionally, PU evaluators will have no scheduled duties on that day.

SSLC exams from today
The SSLC annual examinations for the 2025 batch are set to commence on March 21 and will continue until April 4. A total of 8,96,447 students from 15,881 schools have registered for the exams, including 3,35,468 boys, 3,78,389 girls, and 5 transgender students. To ensure a secure examination process, authorities have implemented strict security measures across 2,818 exam centers in the state. A total of 1,602 flying squads have been deployed to monitor the proceedings, and webcasting will be used to keep a close watch on the centers. Additionally, a 200-meter restricted zone has been established around exam centers, prohibiting any unauthorized activity. Photocopy, cyber, and computer centers near examination halls will remain closed during the exam period.

Auto unions to join

Auto drivers' associations have pledged full support and will halt services for the day. However, the Hotel Owners' Association is yet to make a decision. Several other organizations, including the State Bus Owners' Association, Private School Vehicle Drivers' Union, and the Sarathi Auto Drivers' Association, have only offered moral support without actively participating.

Protest rally declared

Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj announced that a protest rally will be held from Town Hall to Freedom Park at 10.30 am on March 22. He urged the government to take strict action against those responsible for the attack in Belagavi. A request has also been submitted to the Transport Minister to halt Metro, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL), and KSRTC services on bandh day. Essential services will remain unaffected.

No support from KRV

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) has not extended support to the bandh. State President TA Narayan Gowda stated that their



Karnataka Rakshana Vedike staged a protest after the attack on KSRTC staff member in Belagavi

organization will not participate in any form. "After the attack on the KSRTC conductor in Belagavi, we organized a major protest. The police commissioner assured that such incidents will not recur, and action was taken against the responsible officers. Given these assurances, a bandh is unnecessary," he said.

Only moral support

Shashi Kumar D, the General Secretary of KAMS said that schools have morally supported the bandh but clarified that schools will remain open on March 22. "We stand with Kannada culture, but since exams are ongoing, we have decided against declaring a holiday. SSLC students have their public exams, and scheduling a bandh before or after the exams would

have been more appropriate."

Deputy CM against Karnataka Bandh

During Zero Hour in the Legislative Council, Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy raised concerns about the Karnataka Bandh, citing its potential impact on SSLC exams. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar firmly stated, "We cannot support bandhs that disrupt students' exams. Both politically and legally, there is no backing for such actions. We will engage with the organizers and advise them against it." He assured the House that officials would soon be directed to address the issue. "Exams have already begun, and we will issue a statement after discussions with authorities," he concluded.

BMRCL to explore Delhi's freight solution

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is considering launching cargo transportation services within metro trains, following the model adopted by Delhi Metro, which recently partnered with Blue Dart Cargo for freight movement.

A senior BMRCL official said that the volume and type of cargo that can be transported needs to be evaluated, and the most suitable time slots for freight movement must be determined. "The corporation is considering operating cargo services during non-peak hours, with Baiyappanahalli as the central hub for logistics. We are currently reviewing all possi-

bilities, and will discuss the plan with private cargo companies," the official added.

Service to boost revenue

Eight months ago, a proposal was submitted to introduce a courier service in metro trains, which could serve as an additional revenue stream while facilitating urban freight movement. Sources said that BMRCL is also exploring revenue opportunities through advertisements on metro trains and station branding. Initially, advertisements will be installed on ten metro trains each on the Green and Purple lines. The corporation aims to generate an annual revenue of ₹100 crore through various initiatives, including station naming rights and ad placements. Drawing inspiration from Delhi Metro's success in cargo transport, BMRCL intends to collaborate with logistics firms to implement a similar model in Bengaluru. — **BMB**

Health woes escalate as city heats up

With rising temperatures gripping the city, hospitals in Bengaluru have witnessed a sharp increase in cases of heat-related illnesses such as headaches, fever, vomiting, and diarrhea. Over the past week, outpatient departments have seen a surge in patients seeking treatment for these ailments. Hospitals like KC General, Victoria, Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, have reported a 20% rise in cases compared to usual figures. Many patients are experiencing headaches, colds, and fever, with a notable increase in those suffering from dehydration-related symptoms.

Shifting temperature triggers health issues

Doctors attribute this rise in cases to sudden weather fluctuations and al-

lergies. "Dehydration and infections are common during this time. People should drink only clean, filtered water, and consume hygienic food while traveling," advised doctors at KC General Hospital. Doctors have also noted a spike in cases of diarrhea, stomach pain, muscle cramps, fainting, and respiratory issues. Some hospitals have even reported instances of cholera. Additionally, eye irritation and excessive tearing have led to a 10% rise in visits to ophthalmology clinics.

Chickenpox on the rise

Doctors have also observed an increase in skin-related problems, including fungal infections, boils, and rashes. Cases of chickenpox are increasing among children, while many adults are suffering



from sweat-induced skin allergies. "With summer approaching and increased pollen in the air, allergy-related conditions and gastrointestinal infections have slightly risen. There is no need for panic, but people should take precautions when drinking water outdoors," said K Krishnamurthy, a general physician. Doctors recommend daily showers and wearing clean, breathable clothing to avoid infections. They also noted that while 10-15 patients typically visit hospitals for general flu-like symptoms daily, many are now proactively opting for vaccinations to protect themselves from seasonal illnesses. — **BMB**

No face, no trace: Drug trail vanishes

Peddlers in city using 'drop location' method to evade law enforcement, delivering MDMA anonymously via encrypted chats and online payments; police face challenges in tracking

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Anti-Wing (ANW) of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) is intensifying efforts to track down a foreign national who is allegedly supplying MDMA using the "drop location" method to evade law enforcement agencies. This growing modus operandi allows peddlers to distribute drugs without direct contact with buyers, making it increasingly difficult for authorities to curb the illicit trade.

An official under the ANW has lodged a complaint with the CCB police against the unidentified foreign national who was found placing an MDMA packet at a vacant site opposite Decathlon in Kengeri. The accused reportedly shared the drop location and a photograph of the parcel with his customers, ensuring a seamless and anonymous transaction.

How drop location method works

The peddler, who moves, operates in isolated locations, carefully choosing spots such as trees, benches in parks, or vacant plots to deposit drug packets, a senior police official noted. Upon dropping the contraband, the dealer shares a live location and images of the parcel with the customer via WhatsApp. The



Online payments reduce physical exchange and risk

buyer then arrives at the designated spot, picks up the drugs, and leaves without any direct interaction with the seller. Payments for the drugs are made online, further eliminating the need for physical exchange and reducing the chances of getting caught.

Challenges for law enforcement

This method presents a major challenge for the police, as all communication occurs through encrypted WhatsApp calls and chats, making it nearly impossible to intercept and

trace. Furthermore, since no physical meetings take place, it becomes difficult for investigators to establish direct links between buyers and sellers. The anonymity provided by digital transactions adds another layer of complexity to law enforcement efforts.

"The use of drop locations is becoming increasingly popular among peddlers because it significantly reduces the risk of exposure," said an official from the CCB. "Since there is no physical interaction, tracking down offenders is a difficult task. Even informers find it difficult

The use of drop locations is becoming increasingly popular among peddlers because it significantly reduces the risk exposure

—Official

to provide crucial leads."

Rise in cases using this modus operandi

This recent case highlights a larger trend in Bengaluru, where drug peddlers are adapting to these methods to stay ahead of law enforcement. The ANW and CCB have been receiving multiple reports of peddlers resorting to digital communication and contactless delivery techniques to smuggle and distribute contraband.

With the increasing use of technology in drug trade operations, law enforcement agencies are now considering advanced digital surveillance techniques, including AI-driven data analysis and stricter monitoring of online payment channels. The CCB has also urged citizens to report suspicious activities related to drug peddling, emphasising the importance of community involvement.

Office staff catch thieves

Staff at the North Sub-Divisional Officer's office nabbed two thieves who had been stealing cash from employees' bags and handed them over to the police.

According to a complaint filed by office clerk Ashwath, the accused had been targeting female employees' vanity bags during lunch breaks over the past two days. They would take advantage of empty desks and steal cash, which was captured on the office's CCTV cameras.

Upon reviewing the footage, staff identified the suspects, who returned to the office today pretending to be farmers. Alert employees immediately detained them and informed the police.

The Halasuru Gate police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

—BMB

Gang attacks school bus driver

A school bus was attacked by a group of hooligans after the driver honked at them for blocking the road during Holi celebrations. The incident, which took place last week in Byadarahalli police station limits, came to light recently.

The Saint Yash School bus, travelling on Ragi Mill Road in Doddagollarhatti, was ferrying children home when it encountered a group of five-six men celebrating Holi on the road. The group was throwing colours at passersby and obstructing traffic.

As the driver, identified as Suresh, honked to clear the way, the youths refused to move. When he persisted, one of them hurled a stone at the bus, causing panic. Suresh stepped out to confront them, but the miscreants abused and assaulted him. After ensuring the children's safety, Suresh filed a complaint at Byadarahalli police station.

—BMB

Domestic workers decry ₹49 wage

The Domestic Workers Rights Union in Bengaluru has criticised Urban Company's 'InstaMaid' service, which provides domestic help at Rs 49 per hour in Mumbai. On March 19, the Union, alongside Stree Jagruti Samiti, issued a statement denouncing the service as a severe exploitation of informal workers. The InstaMaid service, which guarantees domestic help delivery within 15 minutes, has drawn criticism from the Union for its lack of worker protections, benefits and job security. "Are we progressing in terms of ensuring decent wages and working conditions for domestic workers, or are we descending back into slavery under the shiny garb of market, service, and technology?" the statement read.

The Union highlighted the existing challenges faced by domestic workers, including discrimination based on gender, caste and class, absence of formal contracts, wage disputes and theft allegations when requesting fair compensation. They noted that many live-in workers,

recruited from economically disadvantaged regions, are often treated without proper consideration.

The statement included comments from Dhanalaxmi, a Bengaluru-based domestic worker, who said, "We fought so hard to get a wage of Rs 150 per hour. Even with that, we can barely survive. And now they want to reduce it to 49 rupees?"

On March 18, Urban Company on its X account, after receiving backlash over naming their initiative InstaMaid said, "Words matter. That's why Insta Maids is now Insta Help - because dignity, respect, and progress start with the name, and go beyond." In a previous post, Urban Company claimed, "In this new service offering, partners earn Rs 150-180 per hour, along with free health insurance and on-the-job life & accidental insurance. Partners working for 132 hours per month (22 days x 6 hours per day) are assured earnings of at least 20,000 per month. For our customers, the introductory pricing of Rs 49 per hour is a limited-time offer."

—BMB

No co-op societies for flats, rules HC

The Karnataka High Court has emphasised that residential flats must be registered under the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, and cannot form associations under the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act, 1959, for property management and maintenance.

Justice KS Hemalekha delivered this ruling whilst approving a petition by Saraswathi Prakash and other apartment owners from Parkside Retirement Homes Brigade Orchards Apartment Complex.

The court stated, "It can be safely held that the lis stands covered, that the petitioners and the members of the association are entitled to be registered under the KAO Act and that there cannot be any association registered under the Act, 1959, to form a society to manage and maintain the property comprising of only residential flats. It is also relevant to state here that the KOFA Act, 1972 and the Rules 1975, are applicable if the property has both commercial and residential units."

The petitioners challenged the Registrar of Cooperative Societies' order dated February 23, 2023, which permitted respondent No 3's Chief promoter to collect share capital from residents interested in joining the society.

The petitioners argued that an existing association under the KAO Act, supported by a declaration deed, precluded forming a society under the 1959 Act.

They referenced the case of Shantharam Prabhu and others Vs K Dayanand Rai and others, stated, "Once an apartment is subjected to the KAO Act, Karnataka Ownership Flats (Regulation of the Promotion of Construction, Sale, Management and Transfer) Act, 1972 would cease to apply and it is only the KAO Act, by duly executing and registering a declaration, deed of apartment and bylaws which would be applicable."

The respondents contested that Section 2 of the KAO Act requirements were unfulfilled, as only 90 of 150 unit owners signed the declaration deed.

—BMB

2 brothers die in bike crash

Two brothers lost their lives in a self-accident in the early hours of Thursday near Anepalya under Ashoknagar traffic police station limits. The deceased have been identified as Sheikh Aslam Bashir (24) and Sheikh Sakil Bashir (23), both residents of Neelasandra.

According to police reports, the accident occurred around 5 am in front of the Anepalya bus stand. The brothers, who were riding a bike without helmets, lost control and crashed into a roadside pole. The impact of the collision caused them to fall, resulting in fatal injuries.

Passersby alerted the authorities, and the Ashoknagar traffic police rushed to the spot. The bodies were later shifted to Bowring Hospital for postmortem examination. Preliminary investigations suggest that speeding and lack of protective gear contributed to the severity of the accident. The police have registered a case and are further investigating the circumstances leading to the crash.

—BMB

Event to raise awareness on conservation, says HC

HC permits BWSSB to go ahead with Cauvery aarti at Sankey Tank

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court has permitted the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to go ahead with the proposed Cauvery aarti to be held on Friday at Sankey Tank. Hearing the matter on Thursday, a divisional bench dismissed the Interlocutory application filed by the petitioner to stop all activities and Cauvery aarti inside the lake premise. Passing the order, Chief Justice NV Anjaria stated that the images presented by the petitioner did not indicate any harmful activity at the lake and emphasised that the event aimed to raise public awareness about the importance of lake conservation.

The senior advocate representing BWSSB stated that the ritual had been conducted at Sankey Tank for over 100 years. The divisional bench of Chief Justice and Justice KV Aravind considered this as an important argument in passing the order.

Meanwhile, citizens opposing the Cauvery aarti had approached the High Court on Tuesday, seeking intervention. Advocate GR Mohan filed an interlocutory application on behalf of the citizen groups.

The application was filed to object to the event, stating that it violates Section 12 of the Karnataka



Sankey Tank to host Cauvery Aarti as per Court order

Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) guidelines and poses a significant risk to the lake's ecosystem.

Residents from Malleswaram and Basavanagudi have raised concerns that the large-scale event, expected to draw a sizeable crowd, will disturb migratory birds and local wildlife, violating ecological responsibilities.

Notably, Section 12 of the KTCDA Act prohibits the use of a tank for any purpose other than water storage or impoundment. It also bans any commercial or recreational activity within 30 metres of the tank's outer boundary and any activity that could harm its ecosystem.

However, the court observed that the Cauvery aarti will lead to awareness among the public about conservation and judicious use of water bodies. The event is only being con-

ducted to spread awareness about the importance of conservation of lakes among the public."

"There is a greater need for awareness about conservation of water bodies among people. The authorities should ensure that public movement and gathering is managed to maintain law and order," said the chief justice.

The advocate appearing for BWSSB argued that the event will promote public awareness and community participation in conservation of water bodies, which is in line with some provisions of the KTCDA Act of 2014. The citizen group opposing the event previously stated that while religious sentiments should be respected, environmental concerns must also be addressed. They suggested that instead of using the main lake, the aarti could be conducted at

KTCDA on board too

While the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA), on Tuesday had told BM that it has not received a request seeking permission to organise Cauvery Aarti at Sankey Tank, the agency has now given its consent, although the permission letter issued is dated March 17. The assent is given citing that the event will create public awareness about the importance of conservation of lakes and water bodies.

Conditions to follow:

- Physical structure and condition of the lake to be maintained after the program
- Any activity affecting lake should not be carried out
- Edible items shall not be prepared or placed inside lake premises
- Aquatic life should not be harmed
- Discharge of polluting substances prohibited
- Lake should be used for awareness-raising programs only
- Loudspeakers and other noises shall be regulated
- Day after event, BBMP and designated officer should ensure lake is cleaned of all garbage generated during event
- Precautions to be taken to avoid any untoward incident
- KTCDA shall have power to cancel permission without any prior notice
- The event should be carried out in compliance with court orders

the kalyani (sacred pond) designated for the immersion of Sri Gowri Ganapati, Durga, and other idols.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Abandoned vehicles

Hoskeri Halli



Two abandoned cars have been blocking the footpath in front of Telephone Exchange, Hoskeri Halli, and a School for over 15 days, causing inconvenience to pedestrians.

Stress mess

Nandini Layout



Garbage piles up on the main road near a Hospital, forcing pedestrians, especially school children, onto the busy street during peak hours. Despite being reported to BBMP a month ago, the issue remains unresolved.

Vacant flats deteriorate as workers await allocation

Pourakarmikas are left without homes as authorities fail to act on distribution

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The residential complex built by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) in Alur for pourakarmikas has remained unoccupied for years, gradually turning into a dumping yard. Completed nearly a decade ago, the project was intended to provide housing for permanent sanitation workers in the city. However, due to a lack of coordination between the BBMP and BDA, the allocation process has yet to take place.

In 2014-15, around 400 one-bedroom flats were constructed in Alur, about 25 km from the city centre, as securing land closer to the city was not feasible. However, due to a lack

of maintenance, the buildings have deteriorated, with cracks appearing on walls, broken slabs in kitchens, and some flats even filled with garbage. Pourakarmika leaders highlight that in its current condition, even if the flats are allocated now, workers may be reluctant to accept them.

Sources said each flat in the project was built at a cost of ₹9 lakh, with ₹6 lakh funded by the Directorate of Municipal Administration and ₹3 lakh by BBMP. The allocation was intended to prioritise permanent pourakarmikas with 10-15 years of service who do not own a house. However, many workers continue to live in rented accommodations, still waiting for the promised flats.

Poor planning and coordination

The decision to build pourakarmika housing 25 km from their workplaces is being criticized as impractical.

C.N. Anand of the Pourakarmika Association voiced disappointment over the delay, noting that despite completion, beneficiary selection remains pending. Essential amenities like water and electricity are also missing. With no occupants, the premises have turned into a dumping ground. Residents and workers are urging authorities to clean up the area, provide infrastructure, and expedite flat allocation. They have also demanded a dedicated bus service for workers commuting between Alur and the city.

Allocation delayed by red tape

The delay is primarily attributed to a lack of coordination between BDA and BBMP. Despite repeated appeals from pourakarmika leaders, no significant progress has been made. BDA sources stated that Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) provided a list of 46 beneficiaries, resulting in the allocation



File photo of Pourakarmikas

of those flats, but BBMP has yet to finalise its list.

Despite years passing since the project's completion, and many workers having retired in the meantime, the flats remain unoccupied. "We have brought this to the attention of officials in multiple meetings, but the issue persists," said Dr Babu, President of the Bangalore City Corporation Workers' Welfare Federation, calling for immediate action to resolve the expedited housing allocation.

Waste menace

Puttenahalli



Garbage dumped in front of a government school on Puttenahalli Road, right outside children's classrooms.

Digital scams drain ₹19,800 cr from B'luru

City records massive cyber fraud, with recovery rate of just 9.57%, far below Karnataka's 10.71%; experts cite low awareness, tech loopholes, and digital scams

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Bengaluru has emerged as the most affected region in Karnataka in terms of digital and cyber fraud, with a staggering ₹19,872.67 crore defrauded in the city alone. However, the recovery rate remains significantly low, with only ₹1,902.60 crore retrieved, which accounts for just 9.57% of the total amount lost. When considering the Bengaluru district alongside the city, the fraud amount rises to ₹21,093.67 crore, with ₹2,057.36 crore recovered, maintaining a similarly low recovery rate of 9.75% in 2024.

According to data presented in the Legislative Assembly recently, Karnataka recorded a total cyber fraud of ₹24,417.05

crore, out of which only ₹2,614.61 crore has been recovered. This means the overall recovery rate in the state stands at 10.71%, which is slightly better than Bengaluru's but still alarmingly low. Bengaluru alone contributes approximately 81.4% of the total financial losses due to cyber fraud in Karnataka, yet its recovery rate remains below the state average, indicating a pressing need for more effective law enforcement interventions.

Other major cities in Karnataka, such as Mysuru and Hubballi-Dharwad, have also reported cyber fraud cases, but their numbers pale in comparison to Bengaluru. Mysuru city recorded ₹477.10 crore in fraudulent transactions, with a recovery of ₹41.45 crore (8.69%), while Hubballi-Dharwad saw ₹339.91 crore in fraud, recovering ₹95.36 crore (28.05%). The higher recovery percentage in these cities suggests a more effective crackdown on cyber crimes compared to Bengaluru.

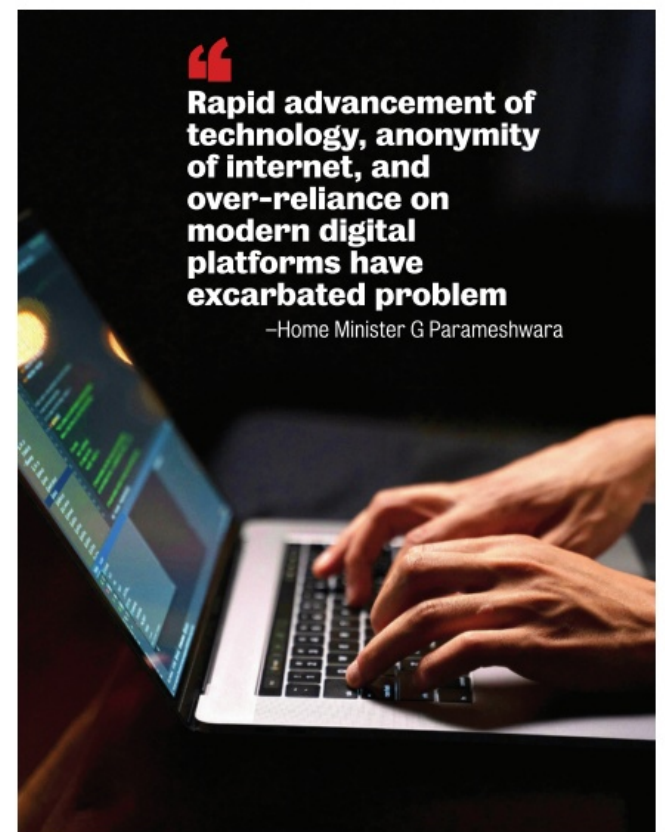
Home Minister G Parameshwara said that the increase in cyber crimes, digital arrests, and other criminal activities across Karnataka, including Bengaluru, can be attributed to several factors. A major reason is the lack of public awareness about digital arrests, leading many individuals to fall victim to scams. Additionally, the widespread use of unfamiliar applications and websites while

browsing the internet has made users vulnerable to cyber fraud. Many people, in their pursuit of quick financial gains, become easy targets for cybercriminals. The increasing number of online bank accounts has also contributed to the rise in cyber fraud, as scammers find new ways to exploit banking loopholes. Furthermore, low awareness about cyber fraud makes it easier for criminals to deceive the public. Cybercriminals manipulate individuals through social media and SMS, enticing them with attractive investment schemes promising high returns in a short period. Clicking on malicious links or installing unknown applications further exposes users to cyber threats.

"Another contributing factor is the lack of knowledge about new technologies among the public. Security loopholes in banking software and inadequate awareness of safety measures have also made cyber fraud more prevalent. The rapid advancement of technology, the anonymity of the internet, and the over-reliance on modern digital platforms have further exacerbated the problem. Leakage of personal information, fake websites, and fraudulent applications have become common tactics used by cybercriminals. Additionally, individuals often fall prey to scams that promise quick financial returns or lucrative job offers," he said.

“Rapid advancement of technology, anonymity of internet, and over-reliance on modern digital platforms have exacerbated problem

—Home Minister G Parameshwara



People often fall for scams promising quick money

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Master cooking exotic veggies at home



Do you love eating exotic vegetables in restaurants but haven't dared to try cooking them at home? Read on for tips on buying, prepping, and cooking exotic, healthy, and yummy vegetables.

Mushroom

Mushrooms add earthy flavour to dishes and can also be a main dish on their own. Prepping them is simple but given the variety of mushrooms available, and how they look, it can seem a difficult task to clean them. Be sure to buy ones that look and smell fresh and woody instead of musty.

Most mushrooms only need tissue paper for the prep work; all you have to do is wipe away the dirt using a damp tissue. If you don't have

the time, lightly and quickly rinse the mushrooms in cool water and pat dry with a tissue or cloth. Avoid soaking mushrooms in water or they will absorb it and not brown nicely when cooking. Use these steps for sliced mushrooms too.

For more mushrooms, chop off the bottoms of the stems first. Rinse the mushrooms in cool water or soak them for a couple of minutes in salted water to remove insects and dirt effectively. Give a final rinse and pat dry using a cloth or tissue paper gently.

To cook, sauté the mushrooms on medium to high heat to get a nice brown colour. You can also boil mushrooms. The best way to get all the nutrients is to eat them grilled.

Asparagus

Check asparagus spears for plumpness when buying – thin ones are tender and sweet while meatier ones have a stronger flavour. Avoid buying dry, split, woody spears.

To prepare, cut off an inch from the bottom of the asparagus spears. If the outer skin is too tough, peel off lightly using a peeler. Rinse the spears to remove dirt.

Cooked asparagus is ready to eat

when tender with a slight bite to it. Boil asparagus in salted water, steam it, and add to pasta or soup. You can also roast asparagus with olive oil and seasonings.

Broccoli

Choose broccoli that looks green with tight florets and firm stalks. To prep, simply rinse in water, rubbing gently to loosen dirt and debris. If you're worried about pesticides or

worms, soak the broccoli head upside down in a solution of water, salt and vinegar. Rinse in clean water before cooking.

Cut the florets using a sharp knife. The stalks can be used to make vegetable stock. The inner tender part of the stalk, along with the florets, can be eaten raw or cooked. To cook broccoli, steam or boil it till it becomes as tender as you like. You can also roast or sauté broccoli.

— Femina

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RTI reveals lapses in Karnataka's forest dweller relocation process

Experts say laws call for settlement of forest rights before relocation

I Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A response to a Right to Information (RTI) application has revealed that the District Level Implementation Committee, constituted by the Government of Karnataka, is not functioning optimally in monitoring the relocation of forest dwellers from tiger reserves and their rehabilitation outside protected areas.

The RTI application sought details about the ongoing relocation program at Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) in Belagavi district. The response indicates that the implementation committee has been operating without fair representation from various departments.

Formed through a government order in 2020, the District Level Implementation Committee was established under the chairmanship of the District Collector to oversee the relocation process of tribal and other families. The committee also includes the Deputy Director of Land Records, District Registrar, and Deputy Conservator of Forests. Additionally, it is supposed to have the Director or Joint Director of the Social Welfare De-



A dense forest landscape from Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, where flawed rehabilitation efforts raise concerns over the displacement of forest dwellers without legal safeguards

partment and an officer from the Tribal Welfare Department.

However, key departments were absent from crucial meetings regarding the relocation of forest dwellers from Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary. "In the first meeting held in August 2024, representatives from the Social Welfare Department, Tribal Welfare Department, Land Records, and District Registrar were not present. The second meeting also lacked representation from the Social Welfare Department and the District Registrar," an RTI activist pointed out.

Experts emphasize that various laws, including the Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Rights Act, as well as guidelines set by the Na-

Key departments were absent from crucial meetings regarding the relocation of forest dwellers from Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary

tional Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), mandate the settlement of forest rights before initiating the rehabilitation of forest dwellers. Ensuring this process is a statutory requirement overseen by the respective departments.

"It appears that in this case, relocation and rehabilitation were carried out without properly settling the rights of forest dwellers. This

should be considered null and void. The relocation from Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary seems to have been done in haste. While rehabilitation is crucial, the process outlined in the law must be followed," the activist added. Meanwhile, in the ongoing session of the Karnataka Legislature, the state Forest Minister informed that 498 families have been rehabilitated from Kali Tiger Reserve between 2020 and 2025, with an additional 240 families relocated from the buffer area.

"Rehabilitation from the buffer area goes against NTCA guidelines and sets a dangerous precedent nationwide. Moreover, a majority of those rehabilitated were encroachers," the activist noted.

BBMP amendment bill passed: Govt to recognise private layout roads, seal illegal constructions

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Amendment Bill 2025 was approved in the Legislative Council on Thursday. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar introduced the bill in the council and addressed key concerns regarding private layouts in Bengaluru.

"Roads have been developed in private layouts across the city. While we have also worked on their development, land records still show the original owners' names. These records need to be updated, and private layout roads must be officially recognized as public roads," he stated.

He further explained that some landowners, despite selling plots, are now filing objections, claiming they never handed over roads to the government. "There are attempts to sell off these roads, arguing that they are entitled to Transfer of Development Rights (TDR). But how can compensation be given for roads that were never officially handed over? This amendment aims to prevent such issues," he added.

Currently applicable within Bengaluru, the amendment will be extended to towns and panchayats in the future. Shivakumar also highlighted that the power to impose levies previously rested solely with the Chief Commissioner, often leading to unilateral decisions. "This amendment

“ Roads that have been used for decades cannot suddenly be claimed as private property. Roads belong to the government — Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar

ensures that such decisions will now be discussed and approved in council meetings. Additionally, the BBMP will now have the authority to seal illegal constructions, which was not possible before," he said.

Preventing land disputes in layouts

During the discussion, the Deputy CM cited an example to illustrate the issue. "A person may register multiple plots, totalling up to 20,000 square feet, with the Sub-Registrar's Office. However, in many cases, remaining portions of land are not recorded under their names. Later, they attempt to claim ownership and even build walls across roads. Some argue that their fathers handled these transactions and they were unaware of them. This has led to unnecessary disputes," he explained.

On slum development and revenue layouts, he clarified, "We are committed to upgrading slums.



But should we neglect revenue layouts? Roads that have been used for decades cannot suddenly be claimed as private property. Roads belong to the government. This amendment ensures that public access is maintained."

Regarding gated communities, he acknowledged past issues where private developers restricted public access. "Previously, even the BDA had taken similar steps. However, legal battles later ensured public accessibility. Our objective is to keep roads open for all," he emphasised.

When questioned by the opposition about the government's stance on existing gated communities, Shivakumar responded, "Every layout must have proper entry and exit points. We will review existing cases and take necessary action." — BMB

IN BRIEF

Govt tightens GPA rules

The Karnataka Assembly has passed the Karnataka Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2025, making it mandatory to register General Power of Attorney (GPA) documents to curb misuse. Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda said the move addresses widespread complaints of GPA fraud in real estate transactions. "All GPA documents must now be registered at the sub-registrar's office. Any property-related transaction based on an unregistered GPA will not be allowed.

This ensures the authenticity of the GPA holder's authority," he said. For GPA holders living abroad, the government is considering authentication via video conferencing. The bill also mandates direct registration of govt allotted lands, sites, and houses in beneficiaries' names to enhance transparency. — BMB

K'taka passes digital e-stamping bill

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly has approved the Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2025, paving the way for digital e-stamping and replacing the traditional stamp paper system. Presenting the bill, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the move aims to curb fraud involving fake challans used to obtain stamp papers from sub-registrars. To prevent such misuse, an online fee payment system will be introduced. Digital signatures will also gain legal validity, and Aadhaar authentication will be mandatory. He further stated that Aadhaar and PAN-based document registration has been recognized, with 46% of documents currently registered using Aadhaar and another 46% through PAN cards. — BMB

35 paise power tariff hike due to HC order?

Energy Minister KJ George clarified that the recent electricity tariff hike was implemented following a Karnataka High Court order issued in March 2024. The hike allows Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL) and electricity supply companies (ESCOs) to recover pension and gratuity contributions from consumers. Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday, George said, "Our government has not arbitrarily increased electricity rates. The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) raised the tariff by 36 paise per unit for the financial year 2025-26 based on the High Court's directive."

"The tariff hike is based on legal provisions and the court's ruling, not a unilateral government decision," he added. — BMB



CONFUSED AT WORK? JUST SPEAK UP



Clarity and feedback can put you on the right path if you are feeling lost

When Nikelle Inman started a new job coaching first-generation college students, she looked forward to meeting with them one-on-one to talk about how to surmount obstacles and find resources to succeed.

Instead, she and her fellow success coaches at a community college in North Carolina spent a year mired in paperwork, tasked with reviewing applications from aspiring undergraduates. They never did get to meet with students.

"Admissions work kind of took over what we were supposed to do," Inman, 34, said. "I felt disengaged with the position, more so because I just didn't feel valued."

It's disorienting when a job turns out to be completely different than advertised or morphs into something we didn't expect. But more U.S. workers have reported feeling disconnected from their organization's purpose and unclear on how to meet expectations since the coronavirus pandemic changed the way we work, according to a new Gallup analysis.

Just under half of U.S. employees who participated in a Gallup survey in November "strongly agreed" that they know what is expected of them at work, which is one of the factors the polling firm uses to measure

employee engagement. In January 2020, the figure stood at 56%.

The new survey showed that new employees, younger employees, people in white-collar industries like technology, insurance and finance, and those in hybrid work arrangements were especially likely to report that expectations for their roles weren't clear.

The findings make intuitive sense. Managers and employees have bushwhacked their way through disruptive changes since covid-19 first upended public life five years ago. In late 2024, about one-quarter of employees with the ability to work remotely were doing so exclusively, up from around 1 in 10 in 2019, Gallup found. Another 55% were working in the office some days and remotely the rest, according to the 2024 data, up from about one-third in 2019.

More recently, layoffs at tech companies and in the government and other sectors have left organizations with fewer people to handle the load, and expectations aren't always adjusted to the new realities.

"With all the rounds of layoffs, people's scope and responsibilities are shifting constantly," said Jeremy Guttenplan, an executive leadership trainer and coach based in New York. "You think about the ones left behind and the work is just getting piled on them."

Here are some strategies for

eliminating confusion when the scope and responsibilities of a job are ambiguous.

Spell out or make sure you understand what a new role or project entails — along with any relevant deadlines or performance markers — from the beginning so everyone agrees on what's realistic and wanted. Writing it down in a shared document can help prevent future misunderstandings.

When a successful real estate developer asked Amber Krasinski to film and produce 85 TikTok videos in three hours, she thought hard about whether she really wanted to take him on as a client. The job might be good exposure for her communications agency, IvyHill Strategies, but Krasinski knew it would be impossible to complete in so little time. She turned it down.

Krasinski regularly gives her client progress updates and tries to make a practice of asking clarifying questions before taking on new projects.

"Any time I have a conversation with a prospective client, I have that in the back of my mind," Krasinski said. "Avoiding that people-pleasing side that says, 'You can figure it out, you can do it.' You don't want to let anybody down, but you also need to set yourself up for success."

No one wants to spend all day in meetings. But more frequent check-ins with a

manager or supervisor may help staff members who are unsure if they are prioritizing their time appropriately or don't know what they are supposed to be doing.

Organizations can explore different ways of building connection between employees and providing more opportunities for feedback, which can result in better understanding of workplace expectations. Brian Smith, founder and managing partner of IA Business Advisors, said his company hosts gratitude sessions for 30 minutes each week.

The first 20 minutes are led by a coach who advises attendees on issues such as how to effectively manage time or deal with challenging customers. Highlighting specific problems and strategies can help workers understand what's expected of them. At the end of the session, participants have an opportunity to share what they're grateful for.

Workers don't have to wait for a supervisor to seek feedback or clarify expectations. You can suggest a quick check-in at any point, if you're unsure how to prioritize long-term goals or short-term deadlines.

"Managing upwards is going to make your life easier," said Dale Whelehan, founder of 4 Day World, a think tank that explores new models of work. "Don't assume that management has all the answers. They're probably just as lost."

However, in hierarchical organizations where questioning management may be viewed negatively, it's important to be delicate, he said.

To initiate a feedback discussion, you can ask to meet with a manager about a current project. Whelehan outlined how to approach the conversation if the meeting gets scheduled. Start by sharing what you understand your assignment to be. Then request the manager's confirmation or clarification by saying something such as, "I just want to make sure that there's alignment here," he advised.

Ask about anything else you need to clarify and close out the conversation by saying, "From what I understand from this conversation, my role is this. ... Have I understood that correctly?" Follow up with an email restating what you agreed to, Whelehan said.

With workplaces experiencing so many changes, employees can find themselves jumping from one assignment to the other, distracted by new responsibilities picked up after colleagues were laid off, or adjusting to spending more time physically in the office. If it all feels too chaotic, take a moment to pause. Revisit your priorities. And then work on the most important task.

"If something doesn't feel right, don't just accept it," Inman said. "Whatever that avenue is, if it's staying and trying to make it better or leaving, just don't give up on what you know is right."

—AP

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Tips for immunity

Eat clean

The cliché is true; your body is a temple, and you have to be careful of what you're feeding it.

While a once in a blue moon cheat day won't hurt, unmindful eating habits are the core reason for stunting the growth of your immune system. Nourish your body with vitamin-rich foods and give it sufficient amounts of fibre. Remember your immune system has nothing to do with the way your body looks.

For a healthy liver, cruciferous vegetables like Kale, Broccoli and Cabbage should be included in daily diet. A healthy liver ensures the body's natural detoxification process.

2. Sleep well

Getting your sleep cycle in sync is one of the biggest gifts you can give your body. The body requires about 8 hours of sound sleep to rejuvenate and reboot its systems. It has to be kept in mind that it's not only 8 hours of sleep, but the timely hours of sleep that matter too. Often, we stress ourselves by staying up till 3 am thereby disrupting the normal functioning of our body that leads to obesity, stress, emotional imbalance and other illnesses.

3. Work Out

Working out regularly has been scientifically proven to boost the immune system. Regular exercise mobilises the T cells, a type of white blood cell which guards the body against infection. However, continuous rigorous workout weakens the immune system, leaving you prone to flu and viral infections. Low level of Vitamin D in the body has been termed as one of the significant reasons for respiratory problems. A brisk walk in the sunlight for 10-15 minutes will ensure that enough Vitamin D is produced in the body.

—Dr Manoj Kutteri, for Femina

Revenue dept finds 26 lakes encroached upon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Horamavu have alleged that a few acres of lake land have been encroached upon by the land mafia.

Lake activists from KR Puram have been running pillar to post to reclaim Vengai Lake land that was encroached on by land mafia. They have alleged that the lake land worth crores of rupees was encroached upon by the land mafia but the lake authorities have not taken measures to reclaim the lake land.

Demanding BBMP Lake Department clear encroachment on lakes in Bangalore East, Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, said he has been complaining to the authorities concerned to clear encroachments at Seegehalli Lake, Basavanapura Lake, Vengai Lake, Benniganahalli Lake, and Gangashetty Lake. "The authorities must protect all the lakes by conducting a survey to identify encroachment on lakes," said Raghotham.

Demanding that the authorities make haste to clear encroachments from lakes, Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising said the authorities have failed to clear Bellandur Lake. "The buffer



File photo of an encroachment clearing drive at Bellandur Lake in 2019

zone of Varthur Lake is also encroached," he said.

According to the BBMP Chief Commissioner, there are 183 lakes under the BBMP and the revenue department has completed the survey of 168 lakes. It is said that the revenue department found that there was no encroachment at 28 lakes while 26 lakes are encroached upon. The BBMP Chief Commissioner said last week that executive engineers of respective zones have been assigned to take care of 114 lakes and they are authorised to issue notices to those encroaching upon the lake land.

BEL engineer held for sharing classified info to Pak handlers: Parameshwara

A BEL engineer who allegedly passed sensitive information, including on communication and radar systems to his handlers in Pakistan has been arrested by the intelligence agencies, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Thursday.

He said the Bharat Electronics Limited staffer had shared the information about the vital decisions and the products manufactured here.

"In Bharat Electronics Limited, a person named Deepraj Chandra, 36 years of age, was a senior engineer. Our intelligence officials and also the military intelligence officials secured him for being in touch with Pakistan intelligence officials... he shared the most classified information," Parameshwara told reporters here.

The Minister said much information has been gathered from Chandra, who hails from Uttar Pradesh.

"He was involved in treason. Military intelligence is taking further action. This is a scary issue. He

Sources say researcher was held for allegedly leaking sensitive information about Indian government offices to Pakistan in exchange for Bitcoin payments

had shared many vital information and decisions about the equipment manufactured by the country," Parameshwara said.

Sources said Chandra was a native of Ghaziabad, who was working in the research team of BEL.

He was held for allegedly leaking sensitive information about Indian government offices to Pakistan in exchange for Bitcoin payments, the sources said.

The accused is suspected of sharing sensitive details related to office

layouts, senior officials, and production systems, sources said.

The leaked information includes communication and radar systems, operating frameworks, security protocols, and details about high-ranking officials, the sources claimed.

The specific recipient in Pakistan is still under investigation, they said.

Chandra used encrypted communication channels like email, WhatsApp, and Telegram to establish contact.

Investigators suspect that he drafted classified information, for which he created a separate email ID, and shared login credentials instead of sending messages directly to avoid detection.

The central intelligence agencies have started probing the case.

Officials are also looking for two more suspects who were in contact with the accused.

The investigation is ongoing, with officials tracking digital transactions and communications to determine the full extent of the leak, sources said. —PTI

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I, Nikita Kishore Kumar Malhotra w/o Romal Bhulani R/o 13023, Sobha Elite, Opp Nagasandra metro station, Tumkur road, Bangalore 560073 have changed my name to Nikita Malhotra Affidavit Dt.20/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Ganesh Kumar Agarwal S/O, Durga Prasad Agrawal R/o No. 346, 6th C Main Road,12th Cross, Agb Layout, Hesarghatta Main Road, Chikkabannavara, Bengaluru 560090 have changed my name to Ganesh Kumar Agrawal.

I, Rajneesh Rai R/o G-302, Godrej Aqua Apartments, Hosahalli, Hunasamaranahalli Post, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore 562157 have changed my minor son's name from Aarush Rai to Aayush Rai

I, Pramod Kumar Goutham R/o Flat.B-2005, Artisan Forest Breeze, 3rd Main Road, Krishnaraju Layout, Dollars Colony, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Pramod Kumar Affidavit Dt.20/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Chander Bhan S/O, Tulsi Ram R/o Flat No 5066, Prestige Shantiniketan, Whitefield, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560048 have changed my name to Chander Bhan Gupta.

I, Mohamed Kaleemullah S/o Gangam Abdul Khaliq R/o No .11/6,Dr Omer Shariff Road, basavanagudi Bengaluru,Karnataka, 560004 have changed my name to Mohammed Kaleemulla for all purposes.

I, Vinayak s/o Ratnappa Kamble, R/o Plot 1253, Sector No 6/1, MM Extn Sri Nagar , Shivaji Nagar Post, Belgaum-590016 have changed my name to Vinayak Ratnappa Kamble for all purposes.

I, B R Govinda Raju s/o Channa Basappa, R/o 94, 3rd Main 3rd Cross,MPM Layout,Mallathahalli,B'luru 560056 have changed my name to B C Krishna Murthy for all purposes

I, Sowmya W/o Naveen R K R/o 9/7, 4th cross, Saraswathi-pura,nandini layout,Bangalore -560096 have changed my name to Sowmya Rudrappa Honnavada for all purposes

I, Mr Dileep .H. S/o Hanumesh K A R/a at No.04, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Chinnappa Layout, Dwaraka Nagar, IAF Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064. that in my CBSE 10th Marks card my name is mentioned as Mr H Dileep instead of Mr Dileep H. My Father name is Mentioned as Mr Hanumesh instead of Mr Hanumesh K A and my Mother Name is Mentioned as Mrs Shanthamma instead of Mrs Shanthamma H.B. I state that My name is Mr Dileep H in my all official Records mentioned name as Mr H Dileep . I hereby Declare that both the Names are My Names only. Vide Affidavit Dated on 17/03/2025 Sworn Before Notary C R Ravichandra Reddy Bangalore.

Is it an exodus?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work models, occupancy fluctuates, and many choose day-wise stays at ₹300-₹400 per day instead of paying a monthly rent of ₹5,000 to ₹8,000. This makes it difficult for us to cover costs and sustain the business," he told BM.

Expenses have skyrocketed across the board. Water bills in Bengaluru's eastern zones have surged to ₹30,000-₹40,000 per month, while electricity costs have risen by 25%, from ₹25,000-₹30,000 earlier. Essentials like milk and groceries have also become more expensive. Kumar points out that student-occupied PGs in other zones are faring better, while those reliant on IT professionals face the brunt of the crisis.

Market in flux

The PG industry is also grappling with unregulated competition. "We had initially planned to increase rental rates, but with so many PGs operating at a loss, that decision is on hold," Kumar explains. "Meanwhile, illegal PGs are undercutting prices to attract tenants, further destabilising the market. Maintaining hygiene, quality food, and services is essential, but with rising costs and lower rents, PG owners are



incurring heavy losses."

The root of the crisis lies in the rapid integration of AI-driven solutions, which has rendered many entry-level tech jobs redundant. IT giants are cutting costs by automating tasks that were once handled by junior programmers and tech support staff. As automation continues to reshape the industry, the ripple effects extend beyond employment, reshaping Bengaluru's housing market and investment landscape.

Uncertain future

Lay-offs have been triggered by AI systems capable of coding and debugging with greater efficiency. The immediate fallout has been felt most among entry-level programmers and tech support staff, many of whom were dependent on affordable housing options.

Once considered a goldmine for investors, Bengaluru's rental housing market is now teetering on uncertainty.

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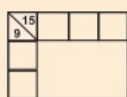
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One side of a rectangle is 3 cm shorter than the other side. If we increase the length of each side by 1 cm, the area of the rectangle will increase by 18 cm^2 . What is the perimeter of the original rectangle?

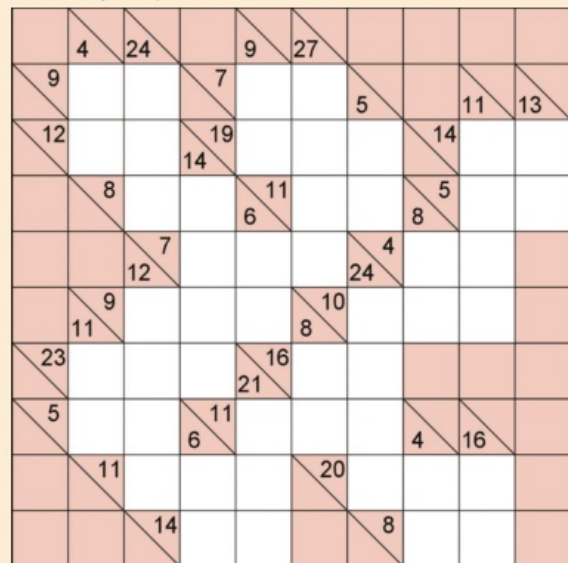
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

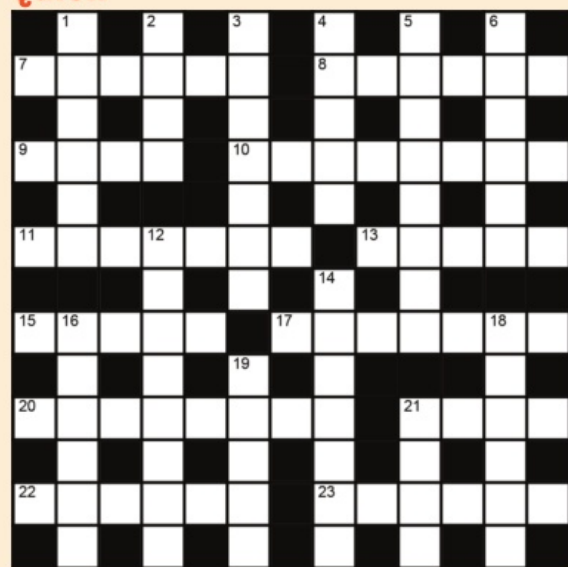


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Electorate members (6)
- 8 Grieves for or over (6)
- 9 Anxious (4)
- 10 Distributed in fixed portions (8)
- 11 Fumbling, feeling for (7)
- 13 Wholeness (5)
- 15 Drinking-tube (5)
- 17 More dubious (7)
- 20 Living thing (8)
- 21 Concerts (4)
- 22 Adorns with precious stones (6)
- 23 Horse's fastest pace (6)

DOWN

- 1 Edge or limit (6)
- 2 Resist boldly (4)
- 3 Russian empress (7)
- 4 Vacant (5)
- 5 Caused to lie (8)
- 6 Put in (6)
- 12 Appeases (8)
- 14 Karnataka district known for its trekking trails (7)
- 16 Covered roads with asphalt (6)
- 18 Alcoholic drink (3-3)
- 19 Slightly drunk (5)
- 21 A very strong wind (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G
AR PNGGMO CAHGT EU MG N
YMR OWN HC NOONPWRL
MGXJ OM MEY MAG QRXO.



Linemaro

My love for you is a monotonically increasing unbounded function



Mindchow

Be a good person, but don't waste time to prove it



Joke of the day

A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument

Loop

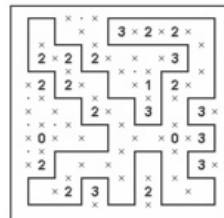
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

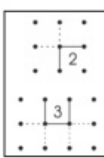
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

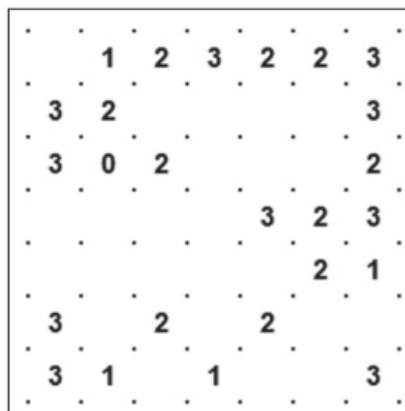
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



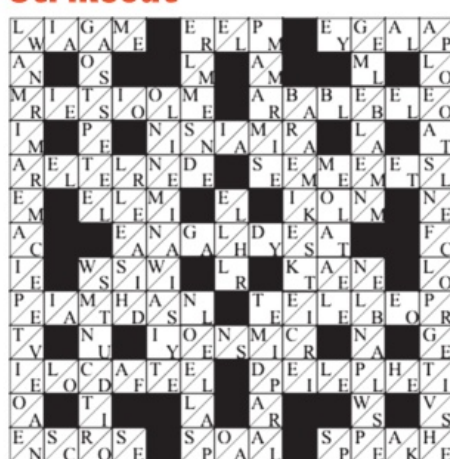
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



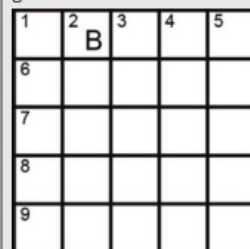
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 To bar; 6 Durer;
- 7 C Noel; 8 Lu Tee;
- 9 Dears

DOWN

- 1 Cared; 2 A bull;
- 3 Or duo; 4 Enter;
- 5 Ester

Mensapuzzle

If five men can dig 100 holes over four days, how many men would be needed to dig 150 holes in one day?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 14

5 5 6 8

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 10

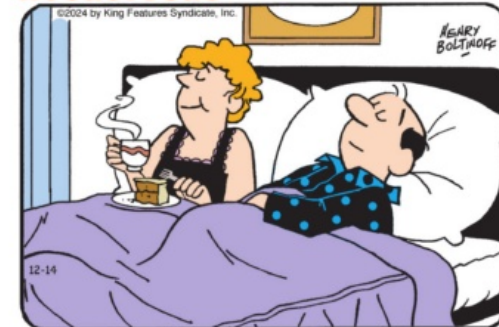
2 7 8 8

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 12

1 2 2 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man's collar is thicker. 2. Woman's pinky is not showing. 3. Mattress is thicker. 4. Corner of headboard is not showing. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Plate is larger.

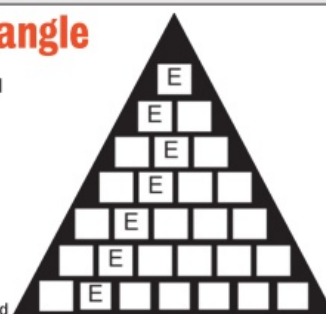
Riddler

What distinguishes the words in the two sets?
A: Cast Shadow Bear B: Belly Cover Taker

Alpha triangle

- 1 Second vowel
- 2 Short for Edward
- 3 Fourth letter
- 4 Feet
- 5 Yielded
- 6 Ten years
- 7 Decomposed

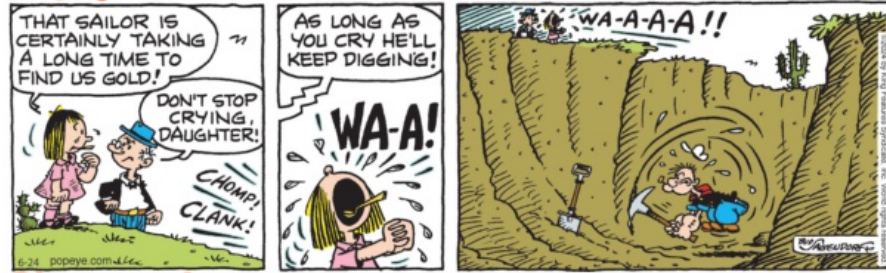
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you may be busy with work, and with the blessings of your elders, you are likely to implement new innovations in your professional life. You will adhere to ethical principles and follow rules in your interactions, bringing you inner peace and strength.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may engage in self-analysis, boosting your confidence. Your focus on achieving your goals will be clearer, leading to success. Creativity will flourish, and you may develop an interest in art, movies, and glamour. By the end of the day, you will feel satisfied, and your opponents will be under control.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Blessed by the Moon, you may acquire some inherited assets. Your patience at work will improve your efficiency. Being polite with those around you will foster positive relationships. With minimal effort, you will accomplish daily tasks. Your communication skills may help you secure new business opportunities.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

You will feel satisfied with your responsibilities at work. A short work-related trip may be on the horizon. Visiting a religious place could help you maintain inner peace and positivity. Guidance from your mentors or gurus may provide clarity regarding your goals.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Mixed situations may surround you today. It is advised not to have high expectations from others, as this may lead to disappointment. Self-exploration and analysis will help you filter out negativity. After this process, you will feel confident and ready to take on new challenges.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

The Moon's blessings will bring you patience. While external work stress may arise, your inner calm will help you balance everything. You will enjoy both professional and domestic life. Your parents' health will improve, and you may receive good news from your siblings.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

You may feel dull today, so it's advised to keep your mind calm. The golden rule for you is to think twice before taking any action. Travel may be required to recover money, but avoid adventure trips. Students should focus on in-depth study for success. You may also develop an interest in the occult.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

You may feel negativity around you today, which could make you upset. Responsibilities might seem burdensome, and rushing to complete tasks may lead to mistakes. Your efficiency could slow down, causing delays in your projects. Seeking advice from elders or consultants before making important decisions is recommended.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

You may feel unhappy today as old health issues resurface, causing impatience. Avoid unnecessary expenditures on worthless items. Control your short temper to prevent conflicts. Lovebirds should steer clear of pointless arguments to avoid potential breakups.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

A harmonious family environment will bring happiness. You may meet an influential person who could help you advance in your career. Your performance at work is likely to improve, and promotions or rewards may come your way. Disputes related to inherited property may be resolved.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today is a positive day for you. Your hard work will pay off in your professional life. With a sharp focus, you will complete tasks ahead of schedule, boosting your self-confidence. A short work-related trip may be beneficial for expanding your network.

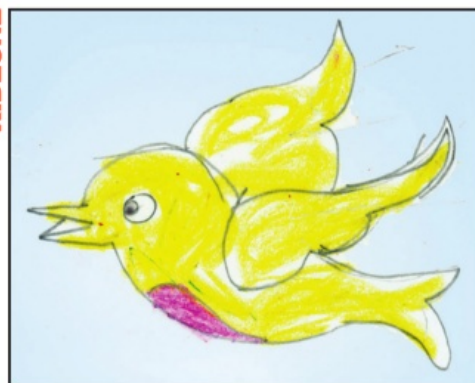


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you will enjoy both your professional and domestic life. A polite approach towards others will help in the smooth completion of tasks. New sources of income may boost your savings. You might also plan to renovate your house or office. Job professionals may receive promotions.



KIDZONE



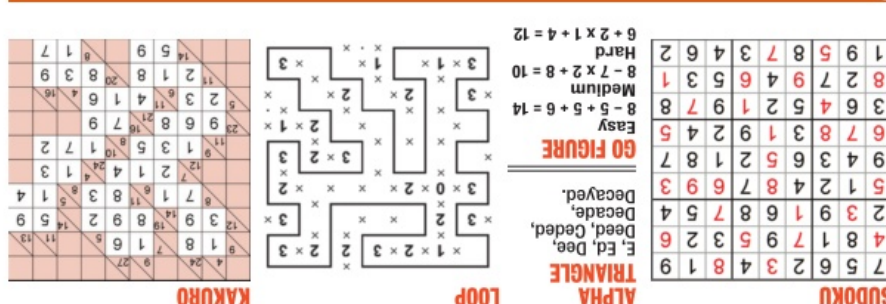
Akhilesh, Bengaluru



Mugdha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS





FOODIE STARS

Some actors don't mind indulging in good food every once in a while

Food is more than just an essential need for human beings, it's a memory and experience. While many other actors and celebrities follow their strict diet plans and schedules, some other stars embrace their foodie side. Not only that these celebs have also been caught indulging in cheat meals to whipping up recipes in the kitchen, but these celebs proved that good food is worth celebrating.

—ETimes

Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Priyanka Chopra Jonas never shies away from sharing her favorite meals. Blame it on her

Punjabi genes or simple, pure love for food, Priyanka enjoys relishing in different cuisines. Her plate sees a portion of everything, be it waffles, poached eggs, or juicy meat. Priyanka simply knows how to keep her meals exciting and indulgent.



Dwayne Johnson

He is humorously referred to as 'The King of Cheat Days.' While The Rock maintains an impressive fitness regimen, he also has a deep love for delicious food. His legendary cheat meals include stacks of pancakes, pizza, and sushi platters. Dwayne Johnson believes in maintaining a balanced diet; he engages in intense workouts and consumes protein-packed meals, but he also indulges in his favorite foods like a true foodie.

Shraddha Kapoor

Shraddha Kapoor's passion for vada pav and desserts is no secret! Her Instagram showcases a variety of her beloved traditional Maharashtrian dishes. She enjoys sharing her culinary favorites with her followers. This love for food not only highlights her roots but also connects her with fans who appreciate the same flavors.



Alia Bhatt

Bollywood's sweetheart Alia Bhatt is a proud vegan, who loves sharing her food diaries via her social media handles. The above-shared picture is from the promotional diaries of 'Gangubai Kathiawadi,' where she treated herself to a delicious vegan burger and French fries. Not only that Alia never shies away from sharing her bowl full of smoothies and wholesome salads. Alia keeps her diet simple and she enjoys her plant-based lifestyle with flair.



No privacy anymore

Oscar winning-actress Cate Blanchett feels Hollywood's most glamorous award nights should go back to being not televised. During an appearance on Matt Rogers and Bowen Yang's Las Culturistas podcast, the trio discussed the invasive nature of social media and phones. Blanchett said of the issue, "There's so few spaces that you can go now, where you are private. That's what I loved about the late '80s, going to all of the dance parties in Sydney for Mardi Gras. People were just there."

"They were so present, you know, they were just together, collectively, having a great time. It was non-aggressive. No one was being recorded. No one cared what anyone did." The conversation shifted to the litany of celebrity annoyances at award shows,



like photographers and "lip readers", reports variety.com.

"Lip readers?" she asked. The hosts went on to explain there is a segment of social media dedicated to reading stars' lips while they are having private conversations on red carpets. "That's really, what? I mean, do something. Learn Ikebana or something, like a skill that's actually beautiful," she said. —IANS

Keep vampires happy

Rashmika Mandanna has shared that director Aditya Sarpotdar knows that using "wise words" can make the actress happy.

Rashmika, who is currently shooting for "Thama," took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture from the sets from their night shoot. It features the director, Aditya A. Sarpotdar, sitting on a plastic chair and monitoring the shoot on a screen.

She wrote: "My director.... Making me shoot night shoot every time.... Ice bucket Story of my life."

In the foreground, there's a bucket labeled as an "ice bucket" and Rashmika humorously added "story of my life", indicating a playful complaint about frequent night shoots.

Resharing the post, the director wrote: "Where mortals fear the night, the vampires find their power," implying a playful reference to their film and the night shoots. Rashmika replied to it by adding her own comment: "Wise words. Knows exactly how to make a Thama (vampire) happy!"

"Thama" revolves around a relentless

historian who delves into ancient texts, unraveling chilling truths about local vampire legends, as supernatural forces awaken. This quest not only unearths history but also ignites a battle for the town's very soul.

Earlier, Rashmika had revealed 'the things' she loves. She had challenged herself with a fun Instagram series, 'No one can stop me from doing the things I love'.

The clip shared by the 'Animal' actress features her relishing what seems to be a mango pudding. Her expressions while eating are proof how much she enjoyed it.

"No one can stop me from doing the things I looooooveeeee! Part - 1!", Rashmika captioned the post.

The actress is currently awaiting the release of her upcoming film "Sikandar". The film, which is directed by A.R. Murugadoss, also stars Bollywood superstar Salman Khan. It is slated to release on Eid.

—IANS

